Title: Need to provide better telecom facilities in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan. -- Laid

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER) : The population of Barmer Parliamentary Constituency is about 30 lakhs with 3,000 villages and more than 600 Gram Panchayats. However, more than 65 per cent villages and one-third Gram Panchayats have not yet been provided telephones facility. This is a great disparity districts of Rajasthan and other districts in the country. This is because the company which has been assigned the contract has failed to fulfil its obligation for VPT assigned to it.

In order to bring Jaisalmer and Barmer districts at par with other districts of Rajasthan and with the country as a whole, I request the Government to take following measures :-

a. The company which has been assigned the contract be penalized for its failure to fulfil its obligations assigned to it and the left over VPT be got executed by Ministry of Communication at the company's costs.
b. In wide spread far flung isolated areas of Thar desert, WLL system is most useful. As such additional WLL systems shall be provided to cover Dhorimana, Shiv, Chohtan, Siwana and Sindhari.
c. If there is paucity of funds, Ministry of Finance be requested to provide funds for these most backward, desert districts.
d. The Prime Minister should intervene to provide adequate resources for WLL systems.